

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 8 December 2025 at 7.30pm at Gretton Village Hall, 61

Kirby Road, Gretton NN17 3DB

**Present:** Cllrs Wright, Clare, Lilley, Husk, Nicholls, Page, Turner, Freegard

**In Attendance:** T Smith(PLR & NHW), Steve Gray (Speed Watch) and two members of the public.

- 25/284** **To receive and approve apologies for absence.**  
Apologies received from the Clerk, Cllr Curtis, Cllr McDonald, Cllr O'Brien and PCSO Wallace.  
**RESOLVED: Approved**
- 25/285** **To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.**  
No declarations of interest shared.  
**RESOLVED: Approved**
- 25/286** **To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 10 November 2025**  
Minutes signed without amendment.  
**RESOLVED: Approved.**
- 25/287** **Open Forum**  
Resident, Ian Duncan took the opportunity to share his continued frustration at the lack of response and action being taken by NNC in respect of the state of Gretton Brook Road. Despite campaigning for five years to improve the road which is dangerous with lying water (often slippery as a result of chemicals being washed onto it), overhanging vegetation, blocked gulleys etc no action is being taken. Contact has also been made with the CEO of Bredon whose lorries are contributing to the state of the road, with no response. Resident, Rob Newby raised similar concerns and the fact that attempts to resolve the situation were being passed between Highways, NNC, Environment Agency with no one showing any accountability or taking responsibility despite a previous commitment that they would work together to resolve the situation. Cllr Wright summarised that the two main concerns relate to road safety and water contamination. Clerk to raise once again with Highways and NNC, with a copy to our Ward Cllrs, emphasising the increasing concern of GPC and residents who are not prepared to wait until a serious accident occurs before something is done to improve the road. Ian Duncan will share the contact details for Sarah Barnwell's replacement.  
Noted the previous Members Enquiries in respect of action required with Gretton Brook Road are no longer visible given the change of Council in May.

Further discussion in respect of access via Fix My Street, Street Doctor, NNC Highways Portal to report fly-tipping, gulley clearing programme, potholes.

Ian Duncan and Rob Newby left the meeting at 8.04 pm.

**ACTION: Clerk to raise with Highways and NNC, and Ward Cllrs ongoing concerns with response to Gretton Brook Road.**

**25/288** ***To discuss recruitment of additional staff to support the Clerk in fulfilment of duties required.***

Discussions over the last six months have highlighted a need to create capacity within the Clerk's current working hours to attend training courses to enable development within the role, website management, asset inspection programme, Parish Path Warden etc. The Finance Committee has undertaken time and motion of the Clerk's role and support in taking calls, progressing quotes, assisting with paperwork and policies is needed – looking at 5-6 hours per week on a 12 month fixed term contract. Without additional support, Cllrs will be required to take on even more. Cllr Freegard volunteered to manage the website and social media going forward.

Recognising the impact this will have on the budget, discussion paused until 25/289 discussed. Further discussion – agreed unable to move forward until budget is agreed. Post seeking a volunteer to assist in the meantime will be considered by the Finance Committee.

**RESOLVED: Approved.**

**25/289** ***To Present 26/27 Budget to Full Council prepared by Finance Committee***

This budget has been prepared by the Finance Committee. Cllr Wright outlined the significant variants from last year's budget, and his further reflections on budget lines to be amended in respect of contingency and project costs which would revise the projected deficit, the anticipated surplus and other services which could be potentially reduced. An increase in the precept (proposed 18.5% for Band D) would support continued work within the Parish, Clerk's salary and associated costs, utilities, insurance etc. Income generation ideas were raised as an alternative. Views shared about how an increase in precept would be perceived given surplus but acceptance that it would not be sustainable to rely year on year on reserves. Noted that reserves need to be maintained to ensure we can keep our services running.

The budget will be finalised at the January meeting; please share thoughts with the Finance Committee ahead of that.

**RESOLVED: Approved.**

**25/290** ***To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council***

No report received.

**RESOLVED: Noted.**

**25/291** ***To receive a report from the Police.***

Latest report received via email from PCSO Wallace.

**RESOLVED: Noted**

**25/292** ***To receive a report from the Police Liaison Representative and Gretton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator***

Trevor Smith shared details of the vehicle break-in on Harringworth Road which has been reported to the Police, as have incidents of cannabis fly-tipping along Harringworth Road.

**RESOLVED: Noted**

**25/293**      **Planning Applications**

None received.

**RESOLVED: Noted**

**25/294**      **To Receive Councillors reports on their activities**

Reports received ahead of meeting from Cllrs Lilley, Husk and Nicholls. Cllr Wright has been working on the budget and supporting the Clerk. Cllr Clare has been working on mapping the drains around the village and discussing accessibility issues with a resident. Cllr Freegard has been considering options for Stone Pit Close.

**RESOLVED: Noted**

**25/295**      **To Propose a motion for the Parish Council to lobby NNC Councillor in support of NNC adopting the Community Infrastructure Levy in place of Section 106 Agreements**

S106 agreements are received for developments of 10+ properties, a Community Infrastructure Levy is applied to all new developments, with Parish Councils receiving a proportion of the amount. As Gretton has a Neighbourhood Plan in place we would receive a higher percentage. Cllr Wright put forward a motion that GPC support the adoption of this Levy and lobby our NNC Cllrs to seek their views and support.

**RESOLVED: Approved.**

**25/296**      **Ownership and Maintenance of Play Area At Kirby Road**

Notice has been given by NNC that from April 2027 GPC will be legally liable for the play area, with the option of entering into a Service Level Agreement with NNC or seeking alternative options, all of this despite being told by NNC that Parish Councils would be forced to take on devolution. Cllr Wright will forward previous correspondence to Cllr Freegard.

Cllr Nichols updated about the play area flooring, his meeting with play equipment company rep and potential cost involved to replace – patching up is not an option. Sara Earl will be researching potential grants. In the meantime, residents to be encouraged to report state of play area to NNC, expressing dissatisfaction with its condition. Cllr Nicholls will prepare link for reporting.

**ACTION: Cllr Wright to forward correspondence to Cllr Freegard.**

**ACTION: Cllr Nicholls to prepare link.**

**ACTION: Clerk to write to NNC Ward Cllrs seeking support against devolution.**

**25/297**      **Asset Inspection Cllr's involvement update**

Tim Fox has kindly undertaken the Asset Inspection again on GPC's behalf. If any Cllr could support this activity it would be appreciated.

**25/298**      **Proposal to purchase a speed gun for use by Community Speed watch Group**

Proposal received from Cllr Clare for the purchase of a speed gun at the subsidised cost of £150 to be owned by GPC, plus the cost of batteries. This will allow flexibility for when speed campaigns are held.

**RESOLVED: Approval for purchase of speed gun.**

**25/299**

**To Discuss further Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2026/27**

Correspondence from NNC confirms that GPC would receive £795.95 toward grass cutting for 2026/27, requiring three cuts to be undertaken. Unsure at this stage what the charge would be for any additional cuts and how much notice would be required. Decision to be made by February 2026. Cllrs to consider and feedback via email. Currently we pay for six or seven cuts on a five-weekly cycle between March and October, excluding No Mow May.

**ACTION: Cllr Wright to contact Liam Faulkner, NNC to establish charge / notice period.**

**25/300**

**To Discuss rental options of Stone Pit Close**

An enquiry has been made by a resident about using this area for Archery. If it was used for more than 28 days per year it would require a change of use as the activity is not agricultural. Need to establish how often it would be used; this could determine whether hired or a more formal rental agreement / change of use is needed.

Cllr Freegard shared details of options for Stone Pit Close, which would be long term projects if accepted. In the short term, the entrance gate needs to be secured and the suggestion was made that an approach to local farmers to use for grazing / maintain for a nominal rent be made.

**ACTION: Clerk to ascertain anticipated usage by resident.**

**ACTION: Clerk to approach local farmer re use of Stone Pit Close.**

**25/301**

**To Discuss Gulley Clearance Programme**

Following on from previous discussions regarding the Gulley Clearance Programme Cllr Wright proposed that a FOI request on behalf of GPC be raised in respect of when the gullies were last cleared, schedule for clearing, and sight of the gulley clearing map for Gretton Parish and Gretton Brook Road.

**ACTION: Cllr Wright / Clerk to submit FOI.**

Trevor Smith and Steve Gray left the meeting at 9.55 pm.

**25/302**

**Update on the new Domain and Website**

The .gov domain is now available and details will be shared on how to transfer content from the .co.uk domain to the new one. Cllr Turner will liaise with the Clerk who needs to access email and change password which will trigger emails to Cllrs.

Cllr Freegard will update the website before the January meeting. Cross-referencing to be undertaken to ensure no content is lost. Existing website can be redirected for a small fee for about six months. Cllr Freegard will arrange for monthly meetings, agenda, minutes etc to be publicised on social media.

**ACTION: Cllr Turner to share domain email with the Clerk.**

**ACTION: Cllr Freegard to update website and arrange publicity for meetings.**

25/303

**Update on FOI requests**

Noted that obligation in respect of requests has been fulfilled.

Further correspondence has been received from the resident seeking the FOI / submitted complaint; this is being reviewed by the appointed sub-committee.

25/304

**To seek permission for the installation of two poles at the Community Orchard for Owl Boxes to be attached.**

No objection to the installation of these poles; looking to use redundant poles from Open Reach or similar.

**RESOLVED: Noted.**

25/305

**To Receive Finance Statement for October 2025**

This has been reviewed by Cllr Lilley and signed off, and previously shared with GPC Cllrs.

**RESOLVED: Approved**

25/306

**Full Council to note Minutes of the Finance Meetings held on 8 and 29 October 2025**

No comments received.

**RESOLVED: Approved.**

25/307

**To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting.**

Cllr Wright shared the following:

The next Gypsy and Traveller Forum is on 15 January 2026 1 – 3 pm via Teams – Cllr Lilley offered to attend, with Cllr Turner a potential second attendee.

The next Kier Highways Drop-in event will be on 15 February 2026 10 am – 1 pm at the Rothwell Library.

NNC Transport Planning – consultation to identify top three proposed transport schemes that would benefit the area. Cllr Wright will share the email with Cllrs for further discussion at the January meeting. The consultation period is 16 December 2025 – 16 February 2026; this is just for Councillors at this stage.

**ACTION: Cllr Wright to share email and Clerk to add to January agenda.**

NALC Utility Aid – firm GPC use to obtain gas / electricity quotes are reaching out to Councils to see how they can assist through sustainable goals.

**ACTION: Clerk to respond to their enquiry and seek more information.**

Correspondence from Ian Duncan and Rob Newby addressed during the Open Forum.

**RESOLVED: Approved**

25/308

**Councillor Questions**

Cllr Lilley sought assistance with completing the Community Asset List; Cllr Page offered to assist.

Cllr Lilley advised that Sara Earl has volunteered to undertake the role of Climate Action Champion; she is also a member of the Nature Recovery Group.

Cllr Lilley asked about progress with the GSSC Lease and Rent; the Clerk to chase Solicitor in this regard. The GSSC is now out of lease; Cllr Nicholls confirmed that invoices have been issued and paid – one in lease, two out of lease.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Solicitor.**

**RESOLVED: Approved**

**25/309**

**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 12 January 2026.

**RESOLVED: Approved**

**25/310**

**Close**

The meeting closed at 10.12 pm

**RESOLVED: Approved**

**Councillors' reports are available on the PC Website at <https://www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk/>**

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